



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

March 22, 2013

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire three conservation easements (Murray Douglas, Murray Creek, and Douglas Creek) on approximately 10,760 acres of private land north of Drummond in Powell County. The purpose of this proposal is to secure critical fish and wildlife habitat and to maintain compatible recreational opportunities and access for the public.

The Draft EA includes a resource management plan and socio-economic assessment. These EA documents may be viewed on FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Submit Public Comments," beginning March 22). The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; or by emailing shrose@mt.gov. Comments may also be directed to Sharon Rose by mail or email at these contacts. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2013.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Drummond on April 3 (Wednesday) at 6:00 p.m. at the Drummond Community Hall, to discuss the proposed conservation easement and take public comment.

As part of the decision making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its May 9th meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mack Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mack" and last name "Long" clearly distinguishable.

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr